

## Office of the Governor

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET Neil Steininger, Director

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May 6, 2021

The Honorable Bert Stedman Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee Alaska State Legislature State Capitol, Room 518 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Click Bishop Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee Alaska State Legislature State Capitol, Room 516 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Kelly Merrick Co-Chair, House Finance Committee Alaska State Legislature State Capitol, Room 511 Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: FY 2022 Operating & Capital Budget Amendments HB 69 & 70 / SB 49 & 50

Dear Finance Committee Co-Chairs,

Enclosed, please find several amendments to the FY2022 operating and capital budgets designed to leverage COVID Federal Relief Funding to make general funds available for critical capital infrastructure projects; respond to critical public safety issues; and bolster the state's ability to defend its statehood rights to responsibly develop resources for the benefit of all Alaskans.

Included are one-time items to utilize one-time Federal revenues to displace unrestricted general funds in the amount of \$17,756,300 in the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. When combined with general fund displacement in the Governor's operating budget proposal, a total of \$32,357,100 from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities unrestricted general fund operating costs have been made available for other uses.

Proposed capital projects to be financed through the unrestricted general fund offset include:

- West Susitna Road Access \$10,000,000 UGF.
- Ambler Road Pre-Construction Activities Including Material Purchases \$7,500,000 UGF.
- Named Recipient Grant Pavement Rehab Through Mat-Su Population Corridor \$10,000,000
   UGF.
- Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resource Project \$5,000,000 UGF.
- Alaska Real-Time Global Navigations Satellite System Network \$5,000,000 UGF.

Additionally, \$15,000,000 of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) Federal Highway Administration funds are allocated to the Denali Commission for rural surface transportation infrastructure.

Also included are appropriations intended to protect state sovereignty over critical resource issues. These amendments compliment the \$4,000,000 supplemental appropriation already submitted for the Department of Law for legal costs related to statehood defense, including:

- Named Recipient Grant Voice of the Arctic Inupiat \$1,000,000 UGF.
- Amendment to the already proposed Endangered Species Act Legal and Research Needs to Protect State Right to Manage – increasing the UGF appropriation by \$3M to a new total of \$4M UGF and \$3M Federal.
- RS2477 Access Development Advancing State's Rights in navigability and Revised Statute 2477
   \$5,000,000 UGF.

Lastly, in response to the tragic fire in Chevak, an appropriation of \$2,500,000 in COVID Federal Relief Funds for Chevak School fire remediation.

In summary, this amendment packet includes appropriations totaling \$29,743,700 in unrestricted general funds and \$36,256,300 federal funds.

Thank you for your consideration of these budget amendments.

Sincerely,

Neil Steininger

Director

## **Enclosures**

cc: Alexei Painter, Director, Legislative Finance Division

Miles Baker, Director, Governor's Legislative Office